

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 02324 01 OF 03 051406Z  
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADS-00 PA-01 ICA-11 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 EB-08 LAB-04 COM-02 /053 W  
-----069478 051606Z /53

R 041420Z MAY 79  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2367  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAN SALVADOR 2324

E.O. 12065: GDS 5/3/85 (DEVINE, FRANK J.) OR-M  
TAGS: ASEC PINS PINT SHUM ES  
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT - MARCH 1979

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: MARCH WAS PRIMARILY DOMINATED BY SERIES OF  
LABOR DISTURBANCES THAT ORIGINALLY STARTED IN FEBRUARY  
WITH LA CONSTANCIA-LA TROPICAL DISPUTE. SERIES OF ONE-DAY  
WORK STOPPAGES ON MARCH 12 IN SYMPATHY WITH LA CONSTANCIA  
STRIKERS WERE FOLLOWED BY 1,500 EMPLOYEES BELONGING  
TO ELECTRICAL WORKERS' UNION (STECEL) GOING ON STRIKE AND  
IMPOSING PERIODIC BLACKOUTS AS MEANS OF INDUCING SETTLEMENT OF  
LA CONSTANCIA AND OTHER LABOR DISPUTES. ON MARCH 19-20,  
STECEL CUT OFF ALL ELECTRIC POWER IN SAN SALVADOR AND  
OTHER MAJOR AREAS IN ORDER TO GET SETTLEMENT OF ITS  
OWN DEMANDS. INVOLVEMENT OF LEFTIST POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY  
BLOC (BPR) AND UNITED POPULAR ACTION FRONT (FAPU) IN  
THESE DISPUTES  
WAS NOT ONLY OF CONCERN TO GOES (WHICH  
WAS PUT UNDER SEVERE STRAIN BY LABOR DISPUTES) BUT ALSO  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 02324 01 OF 03 051406Z

REPORTEDLY TO ESTABLISHED LABOR UNIONS WORRIED OVER  
BEING MANIPULATED OR TAKEN OVER BY ESSENTIALLY NON-UNION  
ORGANIZATIONS WITH TIES TO EXTREME LEFTIST TERRORIST  
GROUPS. ARCHBISHOP ROMERO REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED HIS  
CONCERN OVER THIS SAME DEVELOPMENT. VICE PRESIDENT  
JULIO ASTACIO (CHIEF OF GOES DELEGATION TO MARCH 12  
INAUGURATION OF VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT) MET IN CARACAS

WITH EXILED PDC LEADER NAPOLEON DUARTE. MARCH 4 DEATH OF APOLINARIO BAIRES (WHO HAD BEEN IN NATIONAL GUARD CUSTODY) GENERATED A LARGE AMOUNT OF UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY FOR THE GOES. FARN KIDNAP VICTIM ERNESTO LIEBES' BODY WAS FOUND MARCH 21 WHILE TAKAKASU SUZUKI WAS RELEASED ON MARCH 31. END SUMMARY.

3. MARCH LABOR DISTURBANCES. LAST FEBRUARY 24, A GROUP OF WORKERS AND BPR MEMBERS TOOK OVER LA CONSTANCIA-LA TROPICAL PLANT SITES AND HELD HOSTAGES (SAN SALVADOR 1161). UNION INVOLVED WAS ONE AFFILIATED WITH FENASTRAS PORTION OF LARGELY COMMUNIST UNITED CONFEDERATION OF SALVADORAN WORKERS (CUTS). STRIKE WAS DECLARED ILLEGAL ON MARCH 6. CONFLICT BETWEEN SECURITY FORCES AND DEMONSTRATORS, INCLUDING BPR MEMBERS, AT PLANT SITE ON MARCH 10 LED TO A SHOOTOUT THAT RESULTED IN AT LEAST SEVEN DEAD AND SEVERAL WOUNDED (SAN SALVADOR 1309). EASTERN PORTION OF SAN SALVADOR AND ROUTE TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT WERE BLOCKED AS A RESULT OF DISORDERS. ONE-DAY WORK STOPPAGES IN SYMPATHY WITH "LA CONSTANCIA" STRIKERS OCCURRED AT TEN PLANT SITES ON MARCH 12. ON SAME DAY, 1,500 EMPLOYEES BELONGING TO FENASTRAS-AFFILIATED ELECTRICAL WORKERS' UNION (STECEL) AT COMISION EJECUTIVE HIDROELECTRICA DEL RIO LEMPA (CEL) WENT ON STRIKE IN SYMPATHY FOR WORKERS AT "LA CONSTANCIA" AND TWO OTHER BUSINESSES (SAN SALVADOR 1330). STECEL MEMBERS TOOK OVER ELECTRICITY GENERATING AND DISTRIBUTION POINTS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN SA 02324 01 OF 03 051406Z

AROUND EL SALVADOR AND IMPOSED PERIODIC BLACKOUTS ON SAN SALVADOR AND OTHER PORTIONS OF EL SALVADOR AS A MEANS OF INDUCING THE GOES AND THE EMPLOYERS INVOLVED TO SETTLE "LA CONSTANCIA" AND THE OTHER DISPUTES. FINALLY, ON MARCH 19-20, STECEL CUT OFF ALL ELECTRIC POWER IN SAN SALVADOR AND MAJOR PORTIONS OF EL SALVADOR FOR TWENTY-THREE HOURS DUE TO BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS ON STECEL'S OWN DEMANDS. SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS LED TO ALL STECEL DEMANDS BEING MET. (FOR MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT, READND VXISALVADOR 1330 AND TEN SUBSEQUENT SITUATION REPORTS.) OTHER LABOR DISPUTES THAT OCCURRED AT THIS TIME WERE EVENTUALLY RESOLVED. LABOR PROBLEMS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY SOMETHING OF A BREAKDOWN IN ECONOMIC LIFE OF SAN SALVADOR. DUE TO DEMONSTRATIONS AND OTHER ACTIONS BY PEOPLE IN SYMPATHY WITH STRIKERS, WORKERS LIVING IN MAJOR AREAS OF CITY WERE UNABLE TO FIND BUS TRANSPORT TO WORK. STREET VIOLENCE DIRECTED AGAINST BUSES CAUSED MANY OF THESE TO BE PULLED OUT OF SERVICE. ALL THIS ADDED UP TO AN UNPRECEDENTED DISPLAY OF LABOR UNION POWER, ALL THE MORE SURPRISING BECAUSE OF LABOR MOVEMENT'S GENERAL REPUTATION OF BEING WEAK AND DIVIDED. ACTIONS OF CERTAIN UNIONS PUT SEVERE

STRAINS ON ROMERO GOVERNMENT. THE INCREASING PROMINENCE OF BPR AND FAPU IN THESE LABOR DISPUTES WAS REPORTEDLY NOT ONLY OF CONCERN TO GOES BUT ALSO TO MEMBERS OF ESTABLISHED LABOR UNIONS CONCERNED OVER BEING MANIPULATED OR TAKEN OVER BY ESSENTIALLY NON-UNION ORGANIZATIONS WITH TIES TO EXTREME LEFTIST TERRORIST GROUPS.

4. CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS: LIKE OTHER SECTORS OF SALVADORAN SOCIETY, CHURCH WAS CAUGHT UP IN LABOR SITUATION DURING MARCH. AFTER SOLUTION OF LA CONSTANCIA-LA TROPICAL STRIKE, ARCHBISHOP ROMERO REPORTEDLY ISSUED STATEMENT CALLING ON WORKERS TO BE WARY OF THOSE (I.E., BPR) WHO INTERVENE IN LABOR DISPUTES FOR THEIR OWN ENDS (SAN SALVADOR 1347). ROMERO ALSO REFERRED TO EFFORTS MADE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAN SA 02324 01 OF 03 051406Z

BY THREE PRIESTS TO SEE THAT LA CONSTANCIA DISPUTE WAS RESOLVED. IN HIS MARCH 25 HOMILY, ARCHBISHOP ROMERO, REFERRING TO RECENT ESCALATION OF LABOR PROBLEMS, CALLED FOR "JUST" LABOR LAWS AND STATED THAT IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED THAT GOES HAD REFRAINED FROM "BRUTAL" ACTS IN RESPONSE TO 23-HOUR BLACKOUT BY STRIKING ELECTRICAL WORKERS. IN MARCH 27 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, ROMERO REPORTEDLY MADE STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT WHILE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES OF CHURCH AND PRESIDENT CARTER APPEAR THE SAME, THEY ARE IN REALITY DIFFERENT SINCE U.S. CAN ABANDON SUCH "POLICIES WHEN CONVENIENCE SO DICTATES" WHILE THE CHURCH WOULD DO NO SUCH THING. INTRA-CHURCH TENSIONS SHOWED FEW SIGNS OF ABATING IN MARCH. BISHOP PEDRO ARNALDO APARICIO Y QUINTANILLA, ONE OF LEADERS OF ANTI-ROMERO FACTION WITHIN CHURCH, WAS QUOTED ON MARCH 22 AS SAYING: "CATHOLIC CHURCHES ARE FOR PRAYER, NOT FOR POLITICAL CONCENTRATIONS OR SPEECHES."

5. GOES AND OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES. IN CARACASTI DURING WEEK OF MARCH 11, VICE PRESIDENT JULIO ASTACIO (HEAD OF GOES DELEGATION TO INAUGURATION OF NEW VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT) MET NAPOLEON DUARTE, EXILED LEADER OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC). IN MARCH 23 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AND DCM, ASTACIO SAID MEETING WAS PRODUCTIVE AND REVOLVED AROUND QUESTION OF PDC PARTICIPATION IN 1980 LEGISLATIVE-MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. ASTACIO EMPHASIZED TO DUARTE THAT MILITARY'S ACCEPTANCE OF PDC PARTICIPATION IN THOSE ELECTIONS IS PROBABLY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 02324 02 OF 03 051448Z  
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADS-00 PA-01 ICA-11 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 EB-08 LAB-04 COM-02 /053 W  
-----069762 051606Z /43

R 041420Z MAY 79  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2368  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 SAN SALVADOR 2324

CONTINGENT ON PDC DECISION TO BREAK ITS POLITICAL  
ALLIANCE WITH COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED NATIONALIST DEMOCRATIC  
UNION - UDN (SEE MEMCON OF MARCH 22).

6. BAIRE CASE. MARCH 4 DEATH DUE TO BURNS OF 29 YEAR  
OLD LIC. APOLINARIO BAIRE TURCIOS GENERATED A LARGE  
AMOUNT OF UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY FOR THE GOES DURING  
MARCH. BAIRE HAD APPARENTLY BEEN ARRESTED IN SAN  
SALVADOR BY NATIONAL GUARD (NG) THE PREVIOUS FEBRUARY 23.  
ARCHBISHOP ROMERO REFERRED TO CASE IN MARCH 4 HOMILY,  
STATING THAT BAIRE HAD BEEN TORTURED AND WAS IN  
GRAVE CONDITION. BAIRE'S PARENTS ON MARCH 7  
BROUGHT COMPLAINT BEFORE COURTS, STATING THAT THEIR  
SON HAD TOLD THEM BEFORE DYING THAT HE HAD BEEN  
TORTURED BY NG AGENTS USING BLOWTORCHES. EVIDENCE WAS  
BROUGHT FORTH THAT BAIRE HAD HAD PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS  
IN 1978 (DIAGNOSED AS THOSE OF "PARANOID SCHIZOPHRENIC")  
AND THAT HE HAD SET ON FIRE HIS BED IN NG JAIL CELL.  
NG ISSUED STATEMENT ON MARCH 9, STATING BAIRE HAD  
PRESENTED HIMSELF AT NG BARRACKS IN SAN SALVADOR, SAYING  
HE WAS BEING "POLITICALLY PERSECUTED"; HE WAS TAKEN IN  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 02324 02 OF 03 051448Z

FOR OBSERVATION AND POSSIBLE INTERROGATION; ON NIGHT  
OF FEBRUARY 25, HE HAD ASKED FOR A CIGARETTE, WHICH HE  
ACCIDENTALLY OR INTENTIONALLY USED TO SET HIS BED ON  
FIRE; BAIRE SUPPOSEDLY THREW HIMSELF ON THE BURNING

BED. POPULAR LEAGUES OF FEBRUARY 28 (LP-28), BPR, SALVADORAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TOOK OUT ADS DENOUNCING AUTHORITIES. CASE DREW PUBLICITY IT DID NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASE BUT ALSO PROBABLY BECAUSE OF BAIRE'S SOLID MIDDLE-CLASS BACKGROUND AND RELATIVE PROMINENCE OF HIS FAMILY.

7. CHRONOLOGY OF OPPOSITION, TERRORIST, AND SECURITY FORCES ACTIVITIES:

A) ACTIVITIES OF OVERT POPPOSITION GROUPS.

MARCH 6 - SALVADORAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUED COMMUNIQUE ON FEBRUARY 27 DEROGATION OF LAW OF PUBLIC ORDER, STATING THAT ACTION HAD IN NO WAY LESSENED REPRESENTATION SINCE SECURITY FORCES HAD CONTINUED THEIR ARBITRARY ACTIONS. COMMUNIQUE STATED DEROGATION WAS ONLY "PUBLICITY STUNT" FOR BENEFIT OF PEOPLE ABROAD AND ADDED DEROGATION IN NO WAY AFFECTED STATUS OF 118 "DISAPPEARED PERSONS."

MARCH 7 - LEFTIST "POPULAR LEAGUES OF FEBRUARY 28" (LP-28) REPORTEDLY HELD DEMONSTRATION IN CENTRAL MARKET OF SAN SALVADOR.

MARCH 15 - "EL MUNDO" PRINTED AP DESPATCH THAT THREE BRITISH M.P.'S WHO VISITED EL SALVADOR LAST DECEMBER HAD PREPARED A 770-PAGE REPORT THAT APPARENTLY INCLUDED REFERENCES TO SECRET CELLS AND EVIDENCE OF USE OF TORTURE IN CHIEF NATIONAL GUARD JAIL.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN SA 02324 02 OF 03 051448Z

MARCH 21 - MEMBERS OF "COMMITTEE OF MOTHERS AND RELATIVES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DISAPPEARED PERSONS" OCCUPIED NATIONAL CATHEDRAL IN SAN SALVADOR FOR EIGHT HOURS TO PROTEST, AMONG OTHER THINGS, MARCH 19 ARREST OF CARMEN MENDOZA, A COMMITTEE MEMBER (SAN SALVADOR 1514). MENDOZA WAS LATER RELEASED.

MARCH 28 - ABOUT 250-300 BPR MEMBERS PASSED BY EMBASSY WHILE MARCHING ON MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE EFFORT AT COORDINATION, FAPU AT SAME TIME STAGED DEMONSTRATION IN CENTRAL MARKET AREA OF SAN SALVADOR (SAN SALVADOR 1704). THERE WERE NO REPORTED CLASHES WITH SECURITY FORCES.

B. ACTIVITIES OF TERRORIST GROUPS.

MARCH 3 - IN ACTION ATTRIBUTED TO FPL, CARLOS BORROMEO MATA, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF PERSONNEL AT ADOC SHOE COMPANY, WAS SHOT AND KILLED NEAR HIS HOME IN SOYAPANGO

(SAN SALVADOR 1205).

MARCH 6 - BOMB REPORTEDLY PLANTED BY FPL DESTROYED PART OF JUDICIAL BUILDING IN AHAUCHAPAN. EXPLOSIVE DEVICES CONTAINING PROPAGANDA WERE ALSO SET OFF BY FPL IN SAME CITY. IN OTHER ACTIONS EARLIER IN WEEK, FPL ALSO REPORTEDLY SET FIRE TO COTTON WAREHOUSE IN USULUTAN, SHOT UP A BUILDING IN ZACATECOLUCA, AND DAMAGED FARM BUILDING NEAR SAN VICENTE. A PROPAGANDA BOMB WAS ALSO SUPPOSEDLY SET OFF BY FPL MEMBERS IN AMAPULA, WEEKEND OF MARCH 3-4 WITH FIVE PERSONS BEING ARRESTED.

MARCH 10 - FPL TOOK CREDIT FOR AMBUSH NEAR LAS VUELTAS (DEPARTMENT OF CHALATENANGO) IN WHICH ORDEN MEMBER JOAQUIN GUARDADO WAS KILLED AND SEVERAL OTHER ORDEN MEMBERS WOUNDED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAN SA 02324 02 OF 03 051448Z

MARCH 13 - IN ACTION ATTRIBUTED TO FPL, POLICE CAR WAS FIRED ON IN FRONT OF CHURCH IN SAN SALVADOR. TWO POLICEMEN WERE KILLED, THREE WOUNDED (SAN SALVADOR 1333).

MARCH 13 - SAN SALVADOR BUILDING WITH OFFICES OF GLORIA REGINA ROMERO (WIFE OF PRESIDENT) WAS MACHINE-GUNNED. FPL TOOK CREDIT FOR ACT (SAN SALVADOR 1347).

MARCH 16 - SEVERAL PERSONS REPORTEDLY BELONGING TO FAPU STOPPED BUS IN SAN SALVADOR DURING EARLY MORNING, FORCED PASSENGERS TO GET OFF, AND USED BUS TO BLOCK ROAD. A SIMILAR ATTACK OCCURRED ON ANOTHER BUS IN SAN SALVADOR ON MARCH 20.

MARCH 17 - SECURITY FORCES REPORTED THAT 300 MEMBERS APPARENTLY BELONGING TO ANTI-GOES CAMPESINO ORGANIZATION FECCAS-UTC, SET FIRE TO A BUS NAR CINQUERA.

MARCH 21 - BODY OF SALVADORAN BUSINESSMAN AND ISRAELI HONORARY CONSUL ERNESTO LIEBES, WITH VARIOUS BULLET WOUNDS, WAS FOUND IN SAN SALVADOR. LOCAL PRESS ON MARCH 19 REPORTED FARN HAD CIRCULATED COMMUNIQUE PREVIOUS NIGHT IMPLYING THAT IF FARN DEMANDS WERE NOT MET BY 1800 HOURS ON MARCH 21, FOUR KIDNAP VICTIMS HELD BY FARN WOULD BE EXECUTED. LIEVES WAS ONLY ONE KILLED (SAN SALVADOR 1444, 1513).

MARCH 22 - CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING IN SAN SALVADOR WAS MACHINE-GUNNED AND BOMBED IN ACTION ATTRIBUTED TO

ERP (SAN SALVADOR 1569).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 SAN SA 02324 02 OF 03 051448Z

MARCH 24 - SECURITY FORCES REPORTED THAT EXTREME LEFTIST TERRORIST GROUP REVOLUTIONARY ARMY OF THE PEOPLE (ERP) SET OFF BOMB THAT DAMAGED BUILDING OF BRANCH OF CUSCATLAN BANK IN SAN MIGUELITO, SET FIRE TO VEHICLES NEAR BANK, SHOT UP MAYORALTY BUILDING IN CUSCATANCINGO AND SET FIRE TO VEHICLES NEAR IT (SAN SALVADOR 1569). AROUND SAME TIME, ERP REPORTEDLY CARRIED OUT SIMILAR ACTIONS IN OTHER PARTS OF EL SALVADOR. ON MARCH 26, ERP REPORTEDLY SET OFF PROPAGANDA BOMB IN EASTERN PART OF SAN SALVADOR.

MARCH 24 - FARN ANNOUNCED DECISION TO LIFT MARCH 21 DEADLINE PREVIOUSLY SET FOR COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR RELEASE OF BANK OF LONDON EMPLOYEES MASSIE AND CHATTERTON (SAN SALVADOR 1590).

MARCH 24 - SECURITY FORCES ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAD DISCOVERED A TRAINING CENTER FOR "TERRORISTS" IN SAN JUAN NONUALCO THAT INCLUDED WEAPONS OF MEMBERS OF SECURITY FORCES KILLED BY FPL. SOME SHOOTING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 02324 03 OF 03 051527Z  
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADS-00 PA-01 ICA-11 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 EB-08 LAB-04 COM-02 /053 W  
-----070106 051559Z /43

R 041420Z MAY 79  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2369  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
USCINCS QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 SAN SALVADOR 2324

REPORTEDLY OCCURRED WITH TWO OF OCCUPANTS OF BUILDING BEING FEMALE "TERRORISTS". ACCORDING TO ACCOUNT GIVEN TO PRESS BY SECURITY FORCES, ONE TERRORIST COMMITTED SUICIDE. (SAN SALVADOR 1596)

MARCH 26 - IN AN ACTION ATTRIBUTED TO FPL, MAJOR (RET.) FERNANDO MOREIRA RODRIGUEZ, ONE OF CHIEF ORDER OFFICIALS IN SANTA ANA, WAS SHOT AND KILLED NEAR HIS HOUSE IN SANTA ANA (SAN SALVADOR 1596).

MARCH 26 - POLICE DEACTIVATED BOMB -- REPORTEDLY PLANTED BY ERP -- FOUND AT BUS STOP IN SAN SALVADOR.

MARCH 27 - JESUS ESTRADA DIAZ WAS TURNED OVER TO COURTS AFTER BEING ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF EXPLOSIVES AND ATTEMPTED HOMICIDE IN MARCH 22 INCIDENT -- TWO POLICEMEN WERE WOUNDED -- IN WHICH SECURITY FORCES INTERCEPTED GROUP OF PEOPLE NEAR SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING IN SAN SALVADOR (SAN SALVADOR 1596) ESTRADA'S FORMAL DETENTION WAS DECREED ON MARCH 30 BY JUSTICE OF PEACE COURT IN SAN SALVADOR.

MARCH 29 - IN COMMUNIQUE BROADCAST FROM HONDURAS, FARN PROPOSED THAT IF GOES STOPPED "REPRESSION AGAINST THE PEOPLE" AND INITIATED OTHER ACTIONS, IT WOULD

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 02324 03 OF 03 051527Z

SUSPEND "CAPTURE" OF NATIONAL AND FOREIGN EXECUTIVES; IF FOREIGN EXECUTIVES WANTED TO AVOID CAPTURE FARN SAID "THEY HAVE TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC BOYCOTT" OF SALVADORAN PRODUCTS (SAN SALVADOR 1704).

MARCH 29 - UNIVERSITY OF EL SALVADOR (UES) PROFESSOR FIDEL NIETO LAINEZ WAS ARRESTED IN SAN SALVADOR FOR DISTRIBUTING "COMMUNIST" PROPAGANDA AND PAINTING SLOGANS.

MARCH 30 - TWO EXPLOSIVE DEVICES WITH FPL PROPAGANDA WERE SET OFF AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY (UCA) IN SAN SALVADOR.

MARCH 31 - POLICE DEACTIVATED A BOMB FOUND IN AHUACHAPAN CONSTRUCTION SITE OWNED BY ORDER OFFICIAL.

MARCH 31 - A BOMB PLANTED BY FPL WENT OFF IN NATIONAL GUARD (NG) BUILDING IN SAN MARCOS, SERIOUSLY WOUNDING ONE NG AGENT AND CAUSING EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO BUILDING (SAN SALVADOR 1734). POLICE DEACTIVATED BOMB PLANTED AT SAN SALVADOR INTERSECTION.

MARCH 31 - KIDNAP VICTIM TAKAKASU SUZUKI WAS SET FREE BY EXTREME LEFTIST ARMED FORCES OF NATIONAL RESISTANCE (FARN) AFTER APPROXIMATELY 114 DAYS OF CAPTIVITY (SAN SALVADOR 19726).

MARCH 31 - BOMBS (REPORTEDLY PLANTED BY FPL) IN ORDER HEADQUARTERS IN SAN MIGEL AND AHUACHAPAN WERE DISCOVERED AND DEACTIVATED.



C. ACTIVITIES OF SECURITY FORCES.

MARCH 3 - OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER "LA CRONICA DEL PUEBLO" REPORTED THAT RAFAEL PLEITZ, DOROTEO PLEITEZ, AND ESTANISLAO PLEITEZ OF NEUVA CONCEPCION (DEPARTMENT OF CHALATENANGO) HAD BEEN ARBITRARILY ARRESTED AND DETAINED BY POLICY.

MARCH 5 - NATIONAL GUARD (NG) ISSUED STATEMENT THAT FOUR CIVILIANS HAD BEEN HJFUYED IN AMBUSH AGAINST NG  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN SA 02324 03 OF 03 051527Z

PATROL NEAR SAN VICE TE ON MARCH 4. THREE NG AGENTS WERE REPORTEDLY WOUNDED. ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT LEFT UNEXPLAINED HOW GROUP OF SUPPOSEDLY WELL-ARMED ATTACKERS COULD WIND UP WITH FOUR DEAD WHILE LEAVING ONLY THREE WOUNDED ON NG SIDE (SAN SALVADOR 1228).

FECCAS-UTC PLACED AD IN MARCH 9 "LA CRONICA" CLAIMING THAT FOUR HAD BEEN KILLED IN NG AMBUSH AFTER HAVING PARTICIPATED IN DEMONSTRATION IN TOWN OF SAN LORENZO. MARCH 6 - "LA CRONICA" REPORTED THAT MARIA ENCARNACION TOBAR WAS ARBITRARILY ARRESTED AND DETAINED ON MARCH 1 BY NATIONAL GUARD (NG) AGENTS.

MARCH 8 -- BPR-AFFILIATED "COMMITTEE FOR RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS" TOOK OUT AD CLAIMING THAT MARCIANO MELENDEZ DUENAE

HAD BEEN ARBITRARILY ARRESTED AND DETAINED LAST FEBRUARY 24 BY NG AGENTS. OPEN LETTER FROM PARENTS TO PRESIDENT ROMERO, ARCHBISHOP ROMERO AND OTHERS CONCERNING CASE APPEARED IN MARCH 31 PRESS. MARCH 13 - ANTI-GOES CAMPESINO ORGANIZATION FECCAS-UTC TOOK OUT AD CLAIMING NG, ORDEN, AND POLICE AGENTS ON MARCH 8 HAD RAIDED TWO CAMPESINO AREAS IN DEPARTMENT OF SANTA AN, WOUNDING ONE CAMPESINO, MISTREATING OTHERS, AND ARRESTING SIX (LATER RELEASED).

MARCH 14 - "LA CRONICA" REPORTED THAT POLICIA DE HACIENDA AGENTS IN CANCASTE (DEPARTMENT OF CHALATENANGO) HAD ON MARCH 8 ARRESTED AND LATER KILLED CAMPESINOS GUADALUPE EFRAIN MARTINEZ AND ALFREDO MARTINEZ.

MARCH 15 - "LA CRONICA" - REPORTED THAT CAMPESINO ATILIO CESAR FRANCO, MEMBER OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF OSICALA, HAD BEEN ARBITRARILY ARRESTED AND DETAINED BY SECURITY FORCES ON MARCH 11.

MARCH 17 - BPR "COMMITTEE FOR RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS" TOOK OUT FULL-PAGE AD IN "LA CRONICA" REPORTING AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT CONSTRUCTION WORKER MARARIO MARIANDA MEJIA HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY POLICE AND HAD "DISAPPEARED". AD CLAIMED THAT ON FEB 28  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAN SA 02324 03 OF 03 051527Z

IN SAN ESTEBAN CATARINA, NG AGENTS HAD AMBUSHED PARTICIPANTS IN FECDAS-UTC DEMONSTRATION, KILLING THREE MEN AND ONE WOMAN. AD CLAIMED THAT DURING MARCH ELEUTERIO HERNANDEZ HAD "DISAPPEARED" AND ONE OSCAR JIMENEZ RUIZ HAD BEEN ARRESTED. ON MARCH 29 "LA CRONICA" HAD ARTICLE ON HERNADEZ CASE.

MARCH 19 - BPR "COMMITTEE DOR RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS" PLACED AD CONCERNING CASE OF MANUEL ANTONIO RODAS, WOUNDED AND ARRESTED IN USULUTAN BY POLICE ON FEB 4, ALLEGING HE HAD BEEN MISTREATED BY AUTHORITIES.

MARCH 27 - "LA CRONICA" CLAIMED A "MILITARY OPERATION" HAD BEEN MOUNTED IN SAN SALVADOR VICINITY IN ORDER TO DISCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN MARCH 28 FECCAS-UTC DEMONSTRATION AND MARCH IN WHICH A PETITION TO REDUCE LADN RENTS WAS PRESENTED TO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. HOWEVER, THERE WERE NO REPORTED ARRESTS DURING THIS AND OTHER DEMONSTRATIONS CARRIED OUT SAME DAY BY BPR IN OTHER ARES OF SAN SALVADOR.

MARCH 27 - BPR PLACED AD IN "LA CRONICA" CLAIMING THAT FECCAS-UTC MEMBER ANDRES REMBERTO MEJIA LOPEZ HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN SAN CARLOS EMPA (DEPARTMENT OF SAN VICENTE) ON MRCH 22 BY NG AGENTS, TORTURED, AND LATER KILLED. "LA CRONICAA" CALIMED THAT MEJIA AND ANOTHER CAMPESINO BENIGNO SOLANO (ALLEGEDLY ARRESTED NEAR TALNIQUE LAST MARCH 17, LATER FOUND DEAD) HAD BEEN KILLED BY ORDEN AND SECURITY FORCES.

MARCH 29 - FAPU TOOK OUT AD CLAIMING THAT SECURITY FORCES IN USULUTAN ON MARCH 25 HAD SOUGHT TO PREVENT AND BROKEN UP A DEMONSTRATION CALLED BY LABOR FEDERATION FENASTRAS TO CELEBRATE SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF "PEZCA" AND "PRONACSA" STRIKES.

MARCH 29 - "LA CRONICA" REPORTED ON "SURPRISE REAPPEARANCE" OF ULTRA-RIGHTIST CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATION "LA FALANGE"

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 SAN SA 02324 03 OF 03 051527Z

AND QUOTED FROM A COMMUNIQUE ALLEGEDLY ISSUED BY ORGANIZATION (SAN SALVADOR 1661).

MARCH 31 - SALVADORAN COMMISSION ON HUAN RIGHTS PLACED AD CLAIMING THAT NG AGENTS THAT DAY IN TES CALLES, NEAR USULATAN, HAD BEATEN UP AND ARRESTED 19-YEAR OLD JUAN FRANCISCO OSTORGA RODRIGUEZ. COMMISSION CLAIMED ACTION WAS "OPEN VIOLATION" OF HUMAN RIGHTS GUARANTEED UNDER SALVADORAN CONSTITUION.

MARCH 31 - BPR "COMMITTEE FOR RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONER" PLACED AD CLAIMING THAT NG AGENTS ON MARCH 29 HAD KILLED NOEMY GAMEZ DURING AN AMBUSH. NO OTHER DETAILS GIVEN.

D. NON-ATTRIBUTABLE ACTIONS.

MARCCH 14 - FUNERAL HELD IN SAN SALVADOR FOR OSCAR  
ARMANDO INTERIANO, MEMBER OF LABOR FEDERATION FENASTRANS  
WHO HAD BEEN MISSING SINCE FEB 13. BODY WAS  
FOUND IN LAKE JUIJA NEAR METAPAN (DEPARTMENT OF  
SANTA ANA) WITH HANDS TIED BEHIND BACK AND BULLET  
WOUND IN HEAD (SAN SALVADOR 1373).  
MRCH 29 - AFAEL SIBRIAN, ORDEN OFFICIAL IN CABANAS,  
WAS SHOT AND KILLED IN AMBUSH NEAR TEJUTEPEQUE (SAN  
SALADOR 1704).  
MARCH 30 - NATIONAL POLICE AGENT GUARDING "LA CONSTANCIA"  
FACTORY WASSHOT TO DEATH (SAN SALADOR 1734).  
MARCH 30 - JEEP BELONGING TO U.S. PROTESTANT GROUP  
WAS COMMANDEERED BY MEN WEARING SECURITY FORCES UNIFORMS  
NEAR SAN MARCOS. DRIVER WAS CONVINCED THAT, DESPITE  
UNIFORMS, ASSAILANTS WERE TERRORISTS (SAN SALVADOR  
1734).  
DEVINE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 may 1979  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1979SANS02324  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS 19850504 DEVINE, FRANK J  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D790205-0746  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** SAN SALVADOR OR-M  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1979/newtext/t197905108/aaaadlea.tel  
**Line Count:** 565  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 6b1c23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION HA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 11  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 feb 2006  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2799147  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT - MARCH 1979  
**TAGS:** ASEC, PINS, PINT, SHUM, ES  
**To:** STATE GUATEMALA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/6b1c23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014